

REMARKS

Applicant's claimed invention is concerned with performing relative movement between a pair of prisms so as to focus light at different focii. In Figs. 2-3, the focii F1 and F2 are spaced along the outgoing light path 44. In Figs. 4-5, the focii T1 and T2 are spaced along the return light path 44. In either case, the focii are located at different locations lengthwise of the respective path. This feature enables the reader to have an extended working range (depth of focus) in which indicia can be electro-optically read.

The movement to achieve this extended working range may either be in the drive directions of arrows C in Figs. 3 or 5 perpendicular to the respective path 44 (page 9, lines 8-10 of the specification), or in the drive directions of arrows D in Figs. 3 or 5 along a common plane transverse to the respective path (page 9, lines 8-10) of the specification.

By contrast, U.S. Patent No. 5,227,910 to Khattak does not disclose or suggest any prism movement for focusing light at different focii along an extended working range. Nor does Khattak disclose or suggest any prism movement transverse to a respective path.

In the FIG. 5 embodiment of Khattack, the prisms 94, 96 do not move, but instead are employed to change the laser beam spot from an elliptical (Fig. 6A) to a circular (Fig. 6B) cross-section.

In the Fig. 8 embodiment, the prisms 122, 124 of the beam deflector 120 are rotatable about the optical path 126 to cause the laser beam spot to sweep a scan line across indicia to be scanned (col. 8, lines 34-36). The same is true for the Fig. 13 embodiment in which the prisms 142, 144 of the beam deflector 140 are rotatable about the optical path 146 (col. 8, lines 65-66). The same is true for the Fig. 14 embodiment in which the prisms 186, 188 of the beam deflector 172 are

rotatable about the optical path 180 (col. 9, lines 47-50). The same is true for the Fig. 15 embodiment in which the prisms 238, 240 of the beam deflector 216 are rotatable about the optical path 222 (col. 10, lines 21-23).

Hence, Khattak teaches that rotary movement of prisms can be used to form a scan line. This is totally different from applicant's transverse prism movement to focus light at different focii spaced lengthwise along a respective optical path.

To make these distinctions clearer, independent claims 1 and 9 were each amended to more particularly recite the transverse movement, as well as the lengthwise spacing apart of the focii. Allowance of claim 1-15, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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